

Virginia Council for the Interstate Compact on
Educational Opportunity for Military Children
Minutes: December 9, 2013

Council Members in Attendance:

Delegate M. Kirkland Cox, Chair
RADM David O. Anderson
Dr. Bobby R. Browder
Senator John C. Miller
Mrs. Tammy Smith

Council Members not in Attendance:

Dr. William C. Boshier, Jr.
Mrs. Marlena E. Bremseth
Dr. Patricia I. Wright

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Staff in Attendance:

Melissa Luchau, Military Family Education Liaison
Anne Wescott, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications

Delegate Cox called the meeting to order and welcomed Council members and guests. He introduced the newest Council member, Rear Admiral (Retired) David Anderson, who was appointed by Governor McDonnell in October. Anderson retired from active duty in 2010 with a combined 33 years of service in both the Navy and Navy Reserve. His flag assignments included tours as Deputy Commander, Second Fleet as well as Vice Commander, US Fleet Forces Command. Currently, he serves as a Captain for Federal Express.

The meeting began with a presentation from Chesapeake public schools, highlighting its initiatives as a military k-12 partner. Mrs. Joyce Dugan, supervisor of guidance and family life, discussed the following programs and efforts to assist military-connected children:

- Professional development opportunities for school counselors related to the Interstate Compact
- Welcome packets, tours, and lunch buddies for new students
- “Lunch Bunch” where service members join students for lunch
- Assemblies to honor service members
- Honor Wall supporting service members
- Honor Box filled with students’ activities throughout the school year, shared with service members during their deployment or when they return
- Deployment small groups
- Service members serving as volunteers in the school and classroom
- Military student journals
- Welcome banners
- “Operation Purple” Camps

- Stream graduation and student recognitions at school board meetings online
- Veterans Day tribute video

The meeting continued with a presentation from Chris Dickson, Navy Regional Mid Atlantic school liaison. Mr. Dickson discussed the partnership between the Hampton Roads commanding officers and division superintendents. Each military installation in the Hampton Roads area and all 12 school divisions are represented at an annual meeting where leaders discuss issues facing the military-connected children in their schools. Mr. Dickson highlighted the need for a unique military identifier so that military-connected children can be easily identified and given the appropriate services in school. Mr. Dickson also discussed the results of a survey conducted of Hampton Roads educators. The results of the survey are highlighted below:

- 41% indicated the number one challenge most critical to address is the education of personnel (registrars, counselors, administrators, etc.) on the Interstate Compact
- 35% noted the greatest challenge concerning the Interstate Compact is special education requirements and enrollment procedures
- 65% indicated the most reasonable expectation of school divisions is to provide opportunities to actively engage parents in their children's education
- 53% noted the most reasonable expectation of military installations is to provide partnership support

Mr. Dickson went on to discuss actions related to the identified needs, and proposals related to awareness of the Interstate Compact. Mr. Anderson asked if the sponsorship program connects children at the school level. Mr. Dickson noted the program varies from installation to installation and they are trying to revive it in Hampton Roads.

Melissa Luchau concluded the meeting with a presentation of the Council's 2013 Executive Summary Report to the Governor and Virginia General Assembly, as required by the *Code of Virginia* 22.1-361. The report will be submitted prior to the first day of the General Assembly session.

Council members noted the word is spreading about the Interstate Compact, but there is a need to quantify how much is known about the Compact and by whom. Delegate Cox suggested devoting time at the next meeting to discuss a communications plan for increasing access to information about the Compact. Members also noted they wanted to continue hearing from school divisions about their initiatives to assist military families.

There were no speakers during public comment.

Delegate Cox closed the meeting by thanking the Council members and guests.

The agenda, presentation materials, and video of the meeting can be found at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/va_council/index.shtml.